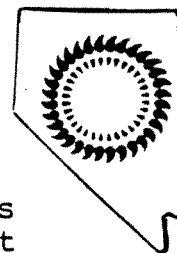


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Nevada State Library



JUN 26 1990

MAY 1990

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 5 Documents Section

John W. James

State Climatologist

Mackay Science Hall

University of Nevada-Reno

Reno, NV 89557

SYNOPSIS

May was wetter and a little colder than normal over much of Nevada. The last week of the month brought some near winter-like storm conditions in many areas that produced most of May's precipitation, along with unusually cool temperatures. Southern Nevada and the area in the lee of the Sierra Nevada came up short again on the precipitation scale, as well as scattered locations in the Northeast.

The big weather story this month was the -7 degrees registered on the 9th by the thermograph and thermometer at Pine Valley Bailey Ranch, located between Carlin and Eureka. This is 10 degrees lower than the +3 degrees recorded at Currie in May 1965 for Nevada's coldest May reading. Donna Bailey also had three nights of +2 and a -1. On the 9th the -7 record was followed by a 53 degree PM reading for a 60 degree warming!

Water year precipitation (October 1, 1989--May 31, 1990) is still below normal over most of Nevada, with only an area from Mina and Fallon on the south and west into the center of Elko County on the north being above normal. East slope Sierra Nevada locations have had between 60% and 75% of normal precipitation thus far this year, with less than 50% in most of Southern Nevada.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures averaged a little cooler than normal, namely due to an unusually cold last week of the month. Departures ranged from -3 in the extreme north and at Fallon, to +2 degrees at Reno and +1 at Las Vegas. The latter two locations may be "suffering" from urban warming, as those were the only places averaging above normal this month. Vegas Valley and Truckee Meadows have shown this tendency in the recent past.

Warmest readings were from the Colorado River/Lake Mead area, where Tim Saskowsky at Cottonwood Cove had 104 degrees on the 7th, and Laughlin 102 degrees on the 7th, 8th, and 22nd. Of course, the -7 May record at Pine Valley was at the other extreme.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation ranged from over 5 times normal at Beatty when 1.17" fell, with 1.15" on the 28th, to only a trace for Las Vegas. Small areas in the Northeast had amounts over twice normal. For example, Mountain City with 3.11" and Jackpot with 3.73" were the wettest recording locations in the State this month. Also, an area in South Central Nevada, stretched between

Beatty, Mina and Smokey Valley, had over twice the normal precipitation, for the first wet month this Water Year.

Other wet locations were at Vya, in the extreme Northwest where Aury Smith measured 2.65", 2.50" at Wildhorse Reservoir, 2.42" at Paul Ford's Midas station between Golconda and Tuscarora, 2.37" at Nathan Yost's Lamoille ranch, 2.26" at Jiggs Zaga, the 2.24" measured by Euphemia Parker at Manhattan near Smokey Valley in the Toquima Range (1.65" on the 28th), and 2.19" at Unionville, (south of Winnemucca) by Laverne Capobianco.

On the dry side, after the Las Vegas Airport trace, was .03" at Spring Valley in suburban Las Vegas, and at Amargosa Garey, .09" by Forrest Smith at the Pahrump Golf Course, and .10 at Topaz Lake.

Upper Incline in the Tahoe Basin and Austin took snowfall honors as 5.5" and 5" fell, respectively.

SUNSHINE, WIND AND EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were below normal in the East (e.g., Ely 67% vs. a normal of 79%), above normal in the Northwest (Winnemucca 82% vs. a 70% normal) and near normal elsewhere (Las Vegas, 90% and a normal of 88%).

Wind speeds averaged above normal over most of the State, with 70 mph plus gusts recorded in the mountains near Reno on the 30th and 31st, and 50 mph recorded by Bobby Curry at Logandale on the 29th and at the Ely Airport on the 23rd.

Evaporation was above normal in the southern 2/3 of the Silver State where Silverpeak had 15.25", Boulder City 14.00", Logandale 12.87", and Pahrump 11.32". In the north, pan evaporation was near normal, with 8.37" at Fallon, 6.83" at Honey Lake Fleming, and 7.13" at Ruby Lake.

NOTE: Welcome to new observers Jack Vogt at Lida, Gene Minor at Dayton, and Grant Gardner at China Springs, south of Minden.

NOTE 2: A visit to the past from our 1884 files--"A destructive flood occurred at Eureka on August 7th after heavy rains. The water came from Ruby Hill and entered Adams Hill Canyon. When the water reached the Williamsburg Mine it was 30 feet wide and 7 feet deep. The Titus Mine was filled with water and one man drowned."

John W. James
State Climatologist

NEVADA

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

May 1990

STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40

